United Nations CEDAW/C/SR.1217

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
15 July 2014

English only

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Fifty-eighth session

Summary record of the 1217th meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 1 July 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Ameline

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (*continued*)

Combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Peru (CEDAW/C/PER/7-8; CEDAW/C/PER/Q/7-8 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Peru took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru), introducing the seventh and eighth periodic reports of Peru (CEDAW/C/PER/7-8), said that since the ratification of the Convention in 1982, the Government had focused efforts on promoting equality between men and women. In compliance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in 1996 it had created a ministry responsible for women's issues that had been restructured in 2012 as the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups to strengthen the mandate for gender equality. The Ministry now had the institutional framework and budget to take measures to counter violence against women and close the gender gap. Peru was among the 125 countries to declare domestic violence as illegal and among 115 countries to grant women equal rights to property and in decision-making.

3. The Government had made landmark institutional reforms in the treatment of human rights, including the approval of a law which established the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights as the main human rights body and created the Vice-Ministry of Human Rights and Access to Justice. The issue of discrimination in Peru was, however, complex. Following the example of other countries in the region which tackled discrimination holistically, a national inter-agency body had been established to combat discrimination in which eight ministries participated. Peru had also developed the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and National Plan for Gender Equality and a National Gender Indicators System to monitor and evaluate national policies on gender equality. The monitoring framework was reviewed annually under the Act on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

4. Peru was committed to results-oriented budgeting, concentrating on programmes which had a direct impact on reducing the gender divide, including programmes to expedite family law cases, combat domestic violence and promote maternal and neonatal health. In recent years, considerable progress had been made in education, with better attendance rates, fewer girls falling behind in school and improved literacy among women.

5. In terms of health, women in rural areas had better access to State subsidized health insurance, as well as prenatal care and attended births in adequate facilities. Teenage pregnancy continued to be a challenge, although progress had been made through a multisectoral plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancy 2013–2021 and an increase in specialized services available. Moreover, Peru had made a crucial commitment to the defence of life by approving technical guidelines on therapeutic abortion in pregnancies up to 22 weeks, which was applied in conjunction with the framework law legalizing abortion in cases that could cause serious and permanent damage to a mother's health.

6. In view of the increasing presence of women in the economically active population, policies had been introduced to reconcile family and working life, regulating paternity and maternity leave, and establishing breastfeeding rooms and crèches in government institutions with 20 or more workers of childbearing age. Furthermore, over 50 per cent of beneficiaries of training programmes run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment were women.

7. Although domestic violence remained a large-scale problem, recent figures revealed that the number of women who had suffered from domestic and sexual violence at the hands of a spouse or partner had decreased since 2009. That decrease was in part thanks to government investment in women's emergency centres, which offered legal, psychological and social support in all 25 regions, and to intersectoral strategies in rural areas to prevent femicide and human trafficking. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had promoted a resolution to encourage states to introduce further regulations on firearms.

8. As to reparation for female victims of terrorism, the State had awarded financial reparation to 70 per cent of the victims on the Central Register of Victims of the Violence and to over 80 per cent of the 2,833 victims of rapes committed during the conflict of 1980–2000. In addition, all rape victims had been granted comprehensive health insurance.

9. With the aim of boosting the number of women in positions of responsibility, the National Elections Board, the Executive and other public bodies were carrying out a campaign in areas with the lowest electoral turnouts to measure compliance with quotas for the number of women, young people and indigenous populations on electoral lists. Congress had also approved legislation indirectly affecting women's rights, inter alia, to ensure better access to justice in family law, and to maintenance payments.

10. Significant developments in the area of justice, included a number of decisions by the Supreme Court: to eliminate discriminatory criteria in weighing the evidence in certain offences against sexual freedom; not to tolerate prejudices and gender stereotypes in trials for sexual offences; to apply a gender perspective in the administration of justice; to emphasize the irrelevance of the victim's resistance to sexual aggression; to draft guidelines for weighing testimony and evidence; and to establish rules to avoid the secondary stigmatization of victims.

11. The gender perspective had been taken into account in protocols on legal proceedings involving indigenous persons and on coordination between traditional and formal justice systems. The judiciary had recognized the Brasilia Regulations regarding access to justice for vulnerable people, thereby improving women's situation in the justice system. A department had been established under the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights to provide legal assistance to female victims of crime, violence and human rights violations. The gender perspective was now incorporated in basic training for judges and public prosecutors.

Articles 1 to 3

12. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** praised Peru for harmonizing the definition of discrimination in its domestic law with that of the Convention and approving the technical guidelines on therapeutic abortion. Nevertheless, some Peruvian laws still contained elements of discrimination, particularly the laws relating to rural and domestic workers. For example, the law on protection against domestic violence did not refer to indigenous women. She asked whether there were plans to identify such discrimination in current legislation.

13. She expressed concern about women's access to justice and public defence. After issuing its recommendations on the *L.C. v. Peru* case, the Committee had received a reply from Peru that although almost all the recommendations had been complied with, the complainant had not yet received any reparation. She asked what had become of the complainant. The fact that similar cases had been brought before the Human Rights Committee, and that forced sterilization had been perpetrated in the State party raised concerns, in particular about the quality of investigations conducted there. It seemed that the only solution for Peruvian women was to resort to the justice system to denounce sexual

violence since it was not being addressed appropriately elsewhere. Was that essentially because stereotypes and discrimination persisted in the law?

14. **Ms. Pomeranzi** commended the State party for Act No. 29083, which had helped fulfil the request made by the Committee in its concluding comments on the sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/PER/CO/6) for the State party to ensure that the national machinery for the advancement of women had sufficient decision-making power and financial and human resources. She also welcomed the twin-track approach by the new Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups of coordinating the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and the system of gender indicators. Nevertheless, she questioned the effectiveness of the twin-track approach given that outside sources had indicated that the Ministry's budget represented a mere 0.4 per cent of the 2012/13 national budget. She enquired how well other ministries had received and implemented the gender mainstreaming plans, not only in terms of the use of resources, but also of changing attitudes. Lastly, she wished to know how the State party had assessed the implementation of gender indicators over the previous two years.

15. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the case of *L.C. v. Peru* raised three basic issues: reparation; guidelines on therapeutic abortions; and the training of medical staff. As had been mentioned in the introduction, clear guidelines on therapeutic abortions had recently been approved. With regard to training, the multisectoral plan on the prevention of teenage pregnancy provided guidance to doctors and thereby helped to prevent the recurrence of cases such as *L.C. v. Peru*. The Government was currently exploring options for providing reparation to the complainant.

16. **Ms. Ibáñez Carranza** (Peru) said that significant efforts had been deployed to deal with the forced sterilizations that had taken place in Peru. An investigation had been initiated and a public prosecutor had formally charged several doctors with homicide and civil servants with endangering the life of the persons concerned, concealment of the facts and breach of duty. The case had raised the issue of the alleged responsibility of the former president, Alberto Fujimori, and three former ministers of health. The case was still under consideration and its outcome would be announced in the coming months.

17. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru), in response to the suggestion that some Peruvian laws were discriminatory, pointed out that one of the main purposes of the recently established national anti-discrimination commission was to review the current legal framework and identify areas of possible discrimination against women. The commission's agenda, programme of work and terms of reference were currently being finalized. He confirmed that the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups often interacted with other ministries such as the labour, internal affairs and health ministries.

18. **Ms. Rojas Ortíz** (Peru) said that the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups had incorporated the national gender equality indicators into the National Plan for Gender Equality. The first assessment report of the Plan, to be submitted to Congress in 2015, would cover the indicators. The Plan was different from previous five-year plans as the indicators would be used directly to monitor and improve gender equality in the State administration.

19. **Ms. Pimentel**, while welcoming the introduction of national gender equality indicators, observed that they could be used more ambitiously to promote equality and inclusive cultural diversity. The State party had many laws and plans, yet their implementation left much to be desired. She asked whether the Government planned to capitalize on the State party's strong economic development by increasing the financial resources allocated to promoting gender equality.

20. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** said that in her previous question regarding reparation, she had been referring to comprehensive reparation for the complainant in the case of *L.C. v.*

Peru. The girl had been 13 when the incident had occurred and was now 19 years of age: the more time that elapsed, the harder it would be to fully rehabilitate her. The Committee would like the State party at least to review the penalties for abortion following rape, yet no information had been provided as to whether that was happening. Similarly, she wished to know what efforts had been made to criminalize sexual violence during armed conflicts.

21. **Ms. Pomeranzi**, clarifying her previous comments, said that while the work on gender equality by the national anti-discrimination commission seemed interesting, she wished to know specifically whether there was a single budget item and sufficient funds for implementing such ambitious and comprehensive activities across all the different ministries and regional entities. She also enquired about resources the Government had set aside for women's NGOs and civil society, since that had not been indicated in the report.

22. **Ms. Šimonović** asked whether there was a national mechanism for implementing the recommendations made by treaty bodies; whether the case of *L.C. v. Peru* had influenced the State party's decision to adopt the technical guidelines on therapeutic abortion; and whether the State party planned to decriminalize abortion in cases where the pregnancy was the result of rape or sexual abuse.

23. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her capacity as an expert, asked whether the State party had a policy concerning indigenous women.

24. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the public policy concerning the legal defence of victims applied equally to women and provided for requisite guidance and assistance. As to the implementation of decisions and recommendations by treaty bodies, the issue of full reparation in the case of *L.C. v. Peru* was still pending. However, all such decisions were referred to and handled by the international legal office, which worked closely with the Vice-Ministry for Human Rights and Access to Justice.

25. **Ms. Rojas Ortíz** (Peru) said that the National Plan for Gender Equality contained indicators for women living in rural areas. Education indicators included the number of indigenous students who would have been educated in their mother tongue by 2017, and health indicators included the percentage of Andean women who were covered by health insurance. Other relevant indicators included the percentage of indigenous women receiving training and participating in job-creation schemes.

26. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that when other sectors provided input into national plans devised by the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups, the corresponding ministry pledged a share of its budget to the plan in question. The Government would consider the possibility of decriminalizing abortion in cases where the pregnancy was the result of rape or sexual abuse, but was not currently in a position to make any firm commitments in that regard.

27. **Ms. Ibáñez Carranza** (Peru) said that the Government had taken measures to address the problem of sexual violence in armed conflict. It had established a specialized justice system to deal with serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity which comprised specialized criminal prosecutors and a specialized criminal chamber. Moreover, the Government had drawn upon the experiences in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda to investigate and process a large number of cases. A number of years previously, the Supreme Court had reached an agreement, which was based on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to not take a negative view of alleged consent in cases of sexual violence or enquire as to a woman's past sexual behaviour.

28. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the case of *L.C. v. Peru* had highlighted the need for doctors to be provided with adequate training. The Government had complied with the

main recommendations arising from that case by adopting the technical guidelines on therapeutic abortion.

29. **Mr. Rodríguez Santander** (Peru) said that the technical guidelines on therapeutic abortion could not be interpreted restrictively. Abortion was not criminalized if the pregnancy was the result of rape or sexual abuse and it endangered the life or could cause serious or permanent damage to the health of the woman.

30. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** said that the introduction of quotas for national and regional political candidates and of a penalty whereby lists of candidates that did not meet the quota were not registered, were positive developments. However, it appeared that, in practice, lists of candidates that did not meet the quotas were often still registered, and the decision to impose the penalty was at the discretion of the officials running the election. She asked what measures the State party was taking to enforce that penalty and whether it had considered making it legally binding. Noting that the bill regulating the implementation of the gender quota in elections had been before Congress for several years, she asked when it would be adopted. She also enquired as to the status of the three bills on gender equality mentioned in paragraph 29 of the State party's report. Commenting on the State party's tendency to conflate temporary special measures and general policies intended to implement the Convention, she asked whether the State party planned to devise specific programmes to implement the Convention, and to launch specific programmes to promote equal opportunities and treatment for women.

31. **Ms. Šimonović** said that the Committee would like to receive additional information on the gender-based stereotypes that discriminated against women and the efforts undertaken by the State party to combat them. Noting that the State party was planning to adopt a new law on violence against women, she asked what issues that law would address. She also enquired about the nature of the amendments made to the law criminalizing femicide and the obstacles to prosecuting the perpetrators of rape and sexual violence.

32. **Ms. Leinarte** asked about the measures provided for in the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and in the National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and about the results yielded by those plans thus far. She also asked why the Government had stopped publishing official data on trafficking-related crimes and how many individuals had been prosecuted and punished for such crimes. Noting the prevalence of trafficking in adolescent girls, she asked what measures the State party had taken to prevent adolescents from falling victim to sexual exploitation and to prosecute the perpetrators. Lastly, she wished to know whether there were programmes to help female prostitutes leave the profession and what the State party was doing to dissuade young women from becoming prostitutes.

33. **Ms. Rojas Ortíz** (Peru) said that the aforementioned bills were still before Congress and required further debate before they could be adopted. The Criminal Code had been amended to incorporate femicide not committed by an intimate partner as a separate offence. Moreover, the Criminal Code now recognized discrimination as one of the underlying causes of femicide. According to information provided by the Ministry of the Interior, around 105 cases of trafficking in persons had been recorded in 2013. In those cases, the majority of the victims were women. The Peruvian police had set up a hotline for reporting cases of trafficking in persons and for providing those affected with essential information.

34. **Mr. Cubas Villanueva** (Peru) said that the Public Prosecution Service was working to optimize its procedures for dealing with trafficking in persons. To that end, it had set up a central unit to protect and assist victims and witnesses. There were also other units that could provide immediate assistance to victims and witnesses in need run by staff with specialized training. The different units had assisted hundreds of victims and witnesses of

trafficking to date. Moreover, cases of trafficking in persons were routinely followed up in an attempt to prevent secondary victimization. Foreign victims of trafficking also had access to care and assistance prior to being repatriated to their country of origin.

35. **Ms. Rojas Ortiz** (Peru) said that the National Plan to Combat Violence against Women and the National Plan for Gender Equality both aimed to identify and combat the most prevalent gender-based stereotypes. Under the National Plan for Gender Equality campaigns to challenge those stereotypes had been launched.

36. **Ms. Ibáñez Carranza** (Peru) said that her Government was continuing its efforts to combat impunity in cases of sexual violence against women. The inclusion of femicide not committed by an intimate partner as a separate offence in the Criminal Code had led to a decrease in the number of cases of femicide recorded at the national level. The Criminal Code also provided for a number of aggravating circumstances for the offence of sexual violence, which included the commission of such an act against a minor or incest. If the offence was accompanied by aggravating circumstances, the perpetrator was liable to a harsher penalty. Furthermore, the Military Code covered the offences of sexual violence referred to in the Geneva Conventions of 1949. When the victim of sexual violence was a minor, the judicial authorities only took their statement once to prevent revictimization. In addition, there was a bill before Congress to incorporate the regulations contained in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into Peruvian legislation.

37. **Ms. Miraval Gambini** (Peru) said that the Public Prosecution Service worked closely with hospitals in Peru to ensure that minors who were the victims of sexual violence and their families received the necessary care and support.

38. **Ms. Pimentel** said that all the public officials working for the Executive should receive training on gender equality. She asked whether the State party planned to establish a national system for registering and processing cases of violence against women.

39. **Ms. Šimonović** asked whether the State party currently issued protection orders; whether it planned to build more emergency centres for women; and whether victims of sexual violence could receive compensation and reparation even if the perpetrator of the act had not been prosecuted.

40. **The Chairperson**, speaking in her capacity as an expert, asked when the regulations contained in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court would be incorporated into Peruvian legislation.

41. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** said that the issue of full reparation in the case of *L.C. v. Peru* should be resolved as soon as possible.

42. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the bill to incorporate the regulations contained in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court into Peruvian legislation was currently being examined. A national council on criminal policy would take the final decision on whether abortion in cases where the pregnancy was the result of rape or sexual abuse could be decriminalized. His Government was currently devising a national plan intended to educate young people and public officials about their rights and responsibilities, which would cover gender equality.

43. **Mr. Rodríguez Santander** said that under the new technical guidelines on therapeutic abortion the fact that a pregnancy was the result of a sexual offence was not in itself sufficient grounds for a legal abortion. It was also a requirement that continuing the pregnancy constituted a grave and permanent risk to the mother's health. Where that requirement was met, and provided the termination took place before 22 weeks and was approved by a medical board, abortion was not a criminal offence under Peruvian law.

44. **Ms. Rojas Ortiz** (Peru) said that around 80 per cent of State agencies had implemented employee development plans and over a third had incorporated gender criteria in their plans. The percentage of plans that included dedicated training in gender and equality issues was lower, at around 20 per cent. For the forthcoming regional and municipal elections, the National Elections Board had decreed that any list of candidates that did not satisfy the minimum 30 per cent quota for women would be rejected and the Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Groups was running targeted campaigns to encourage electoral participation in districts with historically low participation rates, especially among women.

45. **Ms. Ibáñez Carranza** (Peru) said that two forms of reparation were available to victims of sexual violence connected to the armed conflict: redress through criminal proceedings, which could be lengthy, or redress through the Central Register of Victims. At present, 2,833 women were listed in the Register as victims of sexual violence and to date, 2,298 of them had received financial compensation. The women were also entitled to comprehensive health insurance that covered them against all forms of ill health, including psychological illness.

46. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** asked what was being done to ensure that electoral lists which did not meet quota requirements were rejected, and when the bill to introduce an alternating list system was likely to be passed. She would also like an update on the progress of Bill No. 3670 and Bill No. 2682, and on any other measure designed to advance the participation of women in the judiciary. Percentage figures for female representation in law faculties, among lawyers and within the Ministry of Justice would be useful in that connection. Referring lastly to the private bill to address the harassment of women politicians by their peers presented by Congresswoman Verónika Mendoza, she asked whether the Government acknowledged the existence of the problem and whether any law expressly prohibiting the harassment of women in politics was either in place or in the pipeline.

47. **Ms. Hayashi** asked the State party to explain the continuing obstacles to 100 per cent birth registration and why large numbers of women, particularly indigenous and rural women, still lacked the identification documents necessary to claim nationality and social benefits. She would like specific information about: special assistance available, including free transportation to registration offices; services for women with disabilities and other especially vulnerable women; measures to address the situation of children born in isolated communities close to the Colombian border who were exposed to the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation as well as the risk of statelessness; and measures to ensure that children born to foreign parents in Peru were entitled to Peruvian nationality.

48. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice were involved in a new project for the construction of special boats to navigate the country's principal rivers, under the charge of the Peruvian navy, and to provide birth registration, health-care and other public services to remote communities. The scheme had begun in 2013 and had already contributed to an increase in civil registration.

49. **Mr. del Carmen Sara** (Peru) said that the Government of Peru had embarked on a major reform of the health sector following the adoption of the law on comprehensive health insurance in 2009. Access to public health insurance and services had risen significantly, especially in poor and rural areas. Access was also being extended to persons who lacked identification documents and free insurance was available to persons in isolated areas and those living in prisons or shelters. In addition, as of 2014, free public health care was guaranteed for all newborns and all breastfeeding mothers, including those without insurance.

50. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the bill on political harassment was being considered by the Justice Commission of the Peruvian Congress but had not yet been submitted to the Plenary. There were no quotas for women in the judiciary; as an independent, constitutional body, the National Council of the Judiciary was responsible for appointing judges and ensuring adherence to the relevant selection criteria. Percentage figures for women's representation in the judiciary could not be provided at present but he undertook to follow up on the request.

51. **Mr. Chávez Basagoitia** (Peru) said that women's participation in politics and the administration of justice had improved considerably under the current Government. At present, 6 of the 19 seats on the Council of Ministers were occupied by women; 2 of the 6 senior State prosecutors were women; and the last 3 judges appointed to the Supreme Court were also all women. It was difficult to come up with a single explanation for the relatively small number of women in elective offices. However, the success of quotas was undoubtedly hampered by application of the preferential voting system, which to an extent nullified efforts to promote women's representation. The possibility of changing the system was under discussion but subject to considerable opposition, as such a decision would have ramifications for the entire political system, not just for women's right to participate. The possibility of using quotas to bring more women into the judiciary was also fraught with difficulties, as the procedure for appointing judges was already unduly lengthy and complex.

52. **Ms. Pimentel** asked whether the new public-service river vessels would help to facilitate access to justice, particularly for women.

53. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the new boat system was an intersectoral project in which various ministries were involved. In the early phases, the team of travelling public officials had indeed included lawyers from the Public Defence Service, as well as civil registration officials, health workers to administer vaccinations and officials of the National Bank. The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights was committed to continued involvement in the project, which the Government had undertaken to support at least until 2016.

54. **Ms. Gbedemah** expressed concern that women in rural areas spent considerably fewer years in school than women in urban areas. School completion rates were lower still among women with minority mother tongues, with dropout rates apparently following similar patterns. She asked the State party to provide dropout rates disaggregated by rural and urban area, as requested in the list of issues (CEDAW/C/PER/Q/7-8), as well as information on adolescent pregnancy rates and steps taken to ensure the reintegration of young mothers.

55. The State party had indicated in the report that gender equality was a cross-cutting theme in the national curriculum but had provided little information about the content of its sexual education programme. Assurances that sexual and reproductive rights, gender relations and responsible sexual behaviour were accorded due attention would therefore be appreciated. She would also like to know what the State party was doing to ensure compliance with Act No. 29600, on the continuing education of pregnant teenagers, given that the Act did not establish penalties for institutions that failed to make adequate accommodations; how many times disciplinary sanctions had been imposed for sexual harassment in schools; and what specific offences had been involved in those cases.

56. The report indicated that minority children, including children from indigenous groups and children with disabilities, were underrepresented in school but gave no specific figures and no specific information about how the education system catered for those children. She asked the State party to detail the measures in place and the number of children benefiting, as well as any efforts to assess the measures' efficacy. Details of the temporary special measures adopted to reduce the illiteracy rate of women and to provide

both formal and informal education to women, especially in rural areas, as recommended by the Committee in its concluding comments on the sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/PER/CO/6) would also be appreciated. She suggested that temporary special measures might also be used to increase women's relatively low representation in scientific research and engineering. Lastly, she asked how the review of the educational curricula had impacted on gender training programmes for teachers.

57. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that, pursuant to a recent Constitutional Court ruling, maternity could not under any circumstances be treated as a fault or offence or a reason for exclusion from education. That ruling provided unambiguous guidance for subsequent cases that supported the theoretical legal framework established in Act No. 29600.

58. **Mr. del Carmen Sara** (Peru) said that a multisectoral plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancies had been adopted in 2013 and a multisectoral commission had been established to oversee its implementation. The plan was designed to improve sexual education in both rural and urban areas, and thus to reduce the prevalence of early pregnancies, as well as to ensure that young mothers could remain in education. A new system of secondary education that allowed mothers to attend school on an alternating basis had been introduced to that end.

59. **Ms. Pimentel** asked whether the plan for the prevention of teenage pregnancies addressed the situation of girls in rural areas who, in order to avoid long journeys to and from school, might be forced to stay with persons living close to their educational institution; whether the new sexual education programme took a holistic approach that promoted women's empowerment and respected their freedoms; and how the State party ensured adequate training in fundamental human rights and international human rights instruments.

60. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that the Government was in the process of drafting a national plan for human rights education that would support the construction of a human rights-based culture throughout the country.

61. **Mr. del Carmen Sara** (Peru) said that one of the primary objectives of the plan for the prevention of adolescent pregnancies was to postpone the start of sexual relationships in adolescence. Access to education was key, but empowerment was also essential. To that end, regional councils were being established for children and adolescents to encourage leadership, and various schemes, including the "Strong Families" programme and the national "Sport for All" programme, were helping to nurture self-esteem among young persons.

62. **Mr. Ávila Herrera** (Peru) said that information about disciplinary sanctions for schools that failed to provide continuing education for pregnant teenagers and young mothers would be provided subsequently. Draft legislation that would expressly criminalize sexual harassment in schools was currently before Congress.

63. **Ms. Miraval Gambini** (Peru) said that the Public Prosecution Service was overseeing the implementation of a community-based youth leadership programme under which, with support from family judges, police officers and medical professionals, youth leaders provided advice and guidance to their peers on issues including rape, harassment and pornography with a view to fostering the awareness and skills that might contribute to the prevention of early pregnancies, domestic violence and sexual harassment.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.